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standard book on Indian dice was contained in the literature of the Sui. It is positively certain that in the period of Chinese antiquity down to the first centuries A.D. no dice were ever employed. The methods of ancient Chinese divination are perfectly known, being mainly concerned with the consultation of the tortoise and reading the cracks and lines in the burnt shell of this divine animal. These methods could not lead, and in fact did not lead, to the development of any game.

Captain Mauger devotes the greater part of his article to a study of dice games, dominoes, and playing-cards and their interaction. Of cards he describes a number of local variations, also several hitherto unknown, and makes a substantial contribution to the subject. He doubtless possesses a good practical knowledge of Chinese games and others, but should join hands with one in Paris who is posted on historical questions and would lead him more safely through the complex labyrinth of research of this character. Games are hard nuts to crack. It is also somewhat dangerous to write on Chinese subjects without some knowledge of the language and without a clear perception of historical development. It is a rather disturbing *faux pas* to characterize the Chinese of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as "un peuple essentiellement féodal" (p. 41), since feudalism was destroyed at the end of the third century B.C. I would finally remark that A. van der Linde, the famed author of the history of chess, was not a Dane (p. 19), but a Hollander, and that the name of another Hollander, quoted twice (p. 29), is Vissering (not Visserung).

B. LAUFER

The Encyclopaedia Sinica. SAMUEL COULING. Shanghai: Kelly and Walsh (or Oxford University Press), 1917. 634 p.

Although I am not a believer in making cyclopædias, as in the present state of science we have better things to do and our knowledge of China is still far from being complete, the work of S. Couling merits a hearty welcome as a pioneer and as the fruit of hard and patient labors. If it does not satisfy in many points the specialist, it will be a useful reference-book to the public at large and to any one in quest of speedy information on a subject connected with China. The author modestly calls his book a beginning and promises greater completeness in future editions; but the beginning he has made is a good one, and he has provided a basis and framework for a larger and finer building to follow.

B. L.